



U.S. Department of Justice

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**JOHNNY SUTTON SWORN IN AS JUDICIALLY-APPOINTED
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

(SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS) This morning James R. Nowlin, Chief Judge of the District Court in the Western District of Texas administered the oath of office to **JOHNNY SUTTON** as the District's judicially-appointed United States Attorney. Sutton, who is President George W. Bush's appointment for the position, is still awaiting confirmation by the United States Senate.

Sutton succeeds Robert L. Pitman who was appointed by Attorney General Ashcroft and has served the last seven months as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas.

"I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to be the Interim United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas," stated Sutton. "I look forward to serving the citizens of the Western District of Texas and ensuring that justice is served."

As United States Attorney, Sutton will be responsible for prosecuting individuals who violate Federal law, coordinating multiple-agency investigations, and prosecuting or defending all civil lawsuits or proceedings in which the United States is concerned.

The Western District of Texas encompasses 68 counties spanning approximately 93,000 square miles and includes an estimated population of 5 million. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas employs nearly 250 people. The headquarters office is in San Antonio and branch offices are located in Austin, El Paso, Waco, Del Rio, Midland, Alpine and Pecos.

Sutton, a native Texan, received his Bachelor of Arts degree in International Business from the University of Texas at Austin in 1983. He obtained his law degree in 1987 from the University of Texas School of Law after which he became a prosecutor in the Harris County District Attorney's Office. In 1995, Sutton left Houston and moved to Austin to become the Governor's Criminal Justice Policy Director. For the past ten months, Sutton served in the Justice Department as an Associate Deputy Attorney General.

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